UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/967
S/24517
3 September 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 150
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 2 September 1992 from the President of the General Assembly to the President of the Security Council

Last week, the General Assembly held a two-day debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which a large number of Member States from all the regional groups participated, resulting in the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/242 on 25 August 1992 by an overwhelming majority.

In this regard, I consider it my duty to put on record and convey to Your Excellency, and to the distinguished members of the Security Council, my impressions of the prevailing view in the General Assembly, as reflected in its resolution 46/242 and in the statements of a majority of Member States (which I am sure you are also aware of as members of the General Assembly), and of the discussions I had with many Ambassadors, which I wish to summarize as follows:

1. While commending the role being played by the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the United Nations Protection Force, and other United Nations agencies, it was generally felt that much more ought to be done and can be done by the United Nations as a whole to find an urgent solution to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to safeguard its sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and national unity, to put an end to the fighting and to the grave violations of international humanitarian law there.

The above is particularly reflected in preambular paragraphs 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 19, as well as in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 46/242.

2. Paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 46/242 reaffirms the right of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to self-defence. And it was generally felt by a great number of the members as expressed in their statements in the Assembly and in their direct discussions with me that the arms embargo precluded Bosnia and Herzegovina's inherent right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and that action should be taken to rectify this.

The above is particularly reflected in preambular paragraph 17 and paragraph 4 of the General Assembly resolution.

3. It was generally felt that the time factor is vital, it is working against the victims, and to the advantage of the Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the support of the Yugoslav People's Army.

The above is particularly reflected in preambular paragraph 11 and paragraph 5 of the resolution.

In view of the above, I hope you and the distinguished members of the Security Council will find it appropriate, in the full spirit of the Charter, to take urgent action on General Assembly resolution 46/242, which represents the collective will of an overwhelming majority of the membership of the United Nations.

(Signed) Samir S. SHIHABI
President